would be lowest under this alternative due to the expected improvement of plant vigor and cover on upland sites and on floodplains.

The potential increase in recreation activity that is expected under this alternative may result in soil compaction and increased susceptibility to erosion on heavily used recreation sites on floodplains and riparian areas.

Water Quality

Water quality is expected to improve more rapidly under this alternative as a result of lower livestock numbers, a 6-inch stubble-height standard in all stream areas, and a minimum 3" stubble standard on all upland seeps & springs, and also more frequent growing season rest periods. Fewer number of livestock crossing and watering points would be expected as a result of lower livestock numbers, thus reducing sediment input from erosion and bank shearing & the amount of livestock waste entering streams. Water quality would also be improved by standards that would increase riparian vegetation & limit cattle trampling and nutrient input. Water quality may be slightly limited as a result of the expected increase in recreational activities under this alternative. Hiking, trampling, wood gathering and associated disturbance of riparian vegetation may potentially increase, and may result in erosion and sedimentation at some sites during periods of heavy use (hunting season, etc.).

Wilderness Study Area

Under this alternative naturalness and opportunities for solitude within the Jerry Peak and Jerry Peak West Wilderness Study Areas would be improved with the associated reduction of livestock numbers, and improvement of riparian areas, uplands, & associated springs & seeps.

Recreation

Recreation opportunities and quality would be enhanced greatly by the upward trend of upland, riparian and aquatic habitat conditions expected under this alternative. Numbers of visitor days for primitive camping, backpacking, hunting, off highway vehicle use, horseback riding, and sightseeing would be expected to increase.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources would be protected from livestock grazing more than under any other alternative as a result of lower livestock numbers, and more frequent growing season rest periods in riparian pastures. As a result of stubble-height standards, most upland springs and seeps would be expected to be maintained or slightly enhanced under this alternative and thus would benefit cultural resources associated with seeps and springs. Cultural resources could be adversely impacted with expected increases in outdoor recreation, due to gathering or destroying artifacts and site disturbance at or near popular recreational sites.

Economic/Social Values

The permittees would be impacted by the reduction in authorized livestock grazing which may reduce the profitability of the operation. It is unlikely that the reduction in herd size would be significant at the regional economic or societal level. The 6-inch stubble-height standard on all riparian areas (including a 3" std. on springs and seeps) would require

substantial riding and herding of cattle by the permittee in order to ensure that stubble-height standards are met.

Floodplains/Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Floodplain function and hydric vegetation would continue to be influenced by livestock grazing, but at a much reduced level compared to other alternatives because of lower livestock numbers, a 6-inch stubble-height standard and more frequent growing season rest periods.

As a result of stubble-height standards, most upland springs and seeps would improve under this alternative with increased herbaceous and woody vegetation, and less soil disturbance. Recreation activities are expected to increase under this alternative, and may adversely affect floodplain function through increased bank instability and vegetation disturbance from foot, horse, and off-road vehicle trampling and wood gathering. The impacts may become substantial at certain popular sites on Lake Creek and lower Herd Creek during periods of high intensity use (summer camping, fall hunting season, etc.).

Wildlife
Same as Alternative 2, except: Effects of competition would be less than under any other alternative due to lower livestock numbers and more restrictive grazing management. Wildlife species that require herbaceous vegetative cover may increase in abundance.

Wild and Scenic Rivers
Same as Alternative 2, except that reduced livestock numbers and more restrictive grazing use standards would be more likely to maintain or enhance outstandingly remarkable (OR) values by improving the functionality of riparian areas, improving both native and anadramous fish habitat and other aquatic and water quality parameters. Cultural resources are expected to be maintained, even though the risk from human impacts could be greater under this alternative.

Recreation activities are expected to increase under this alternative, and may adversely affect OR values from trampling, streambank disturbance, wood gathering, site disturbance, and gathering or destroying artifacts. The impacts may become substantial at certain popular sites on Herd & Lake Creeks during periods of high intensity use (hunting season, etc.), but such impacts could be mitigated by actions such as signing, and the designation of access points to reduce pressure on known cultural sites.

Indirect Impacts
No additional indirect impacts are expected under this alternative.

Cumulative Impacts
Although cumulative impacts would be similar to those detailed in Alternatives 1 and 2, this alternative would contribute the least cumulative impacts to those occurring from other ongoing or proposed actions due to the lesser degree of impacts expected from fewer livestock.

Summary of Alternative 4 Impacts to Affected Resources

Positive individual and cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of this alternative. No significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of this alternative.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted: Jim Bennetts, Gary & Jackie Ingram, permittees; Jon Marvel, Glenn Hockett, Lynne Stone, Linn Kinncannon, interested publics; Mike Larkin, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Region 7; Dale Brege, NMFS; Kaz Thea, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Alliance for the Wild Rockies; Idaho Rivers United; The Wilderness Society; Committee for Idaho's High Desert; Idaho Cattleman's Association; Sierra Club; Idaho Wildlife Federation; Custer County Commissioners; Idaho Dept. of Lands; Idaho Dept. of Agriculture; USDA Forest Service Challis Ranger District; Shoshone - Bannock Tribes.

List of Preparers: Russ Riebe, Rangeland Management Specialist; Kate Forster, Fisheries Biologist; Jerry Gregson, Wildlife Biologist; Pete Sozzi, Outdoor Rec Planner/Wilderness Coordinator; Linda Clark, Archaeologist; Bill Diage, Ecologist.

Reviewed By: Kathe Rhodes Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Kathe Rhodes

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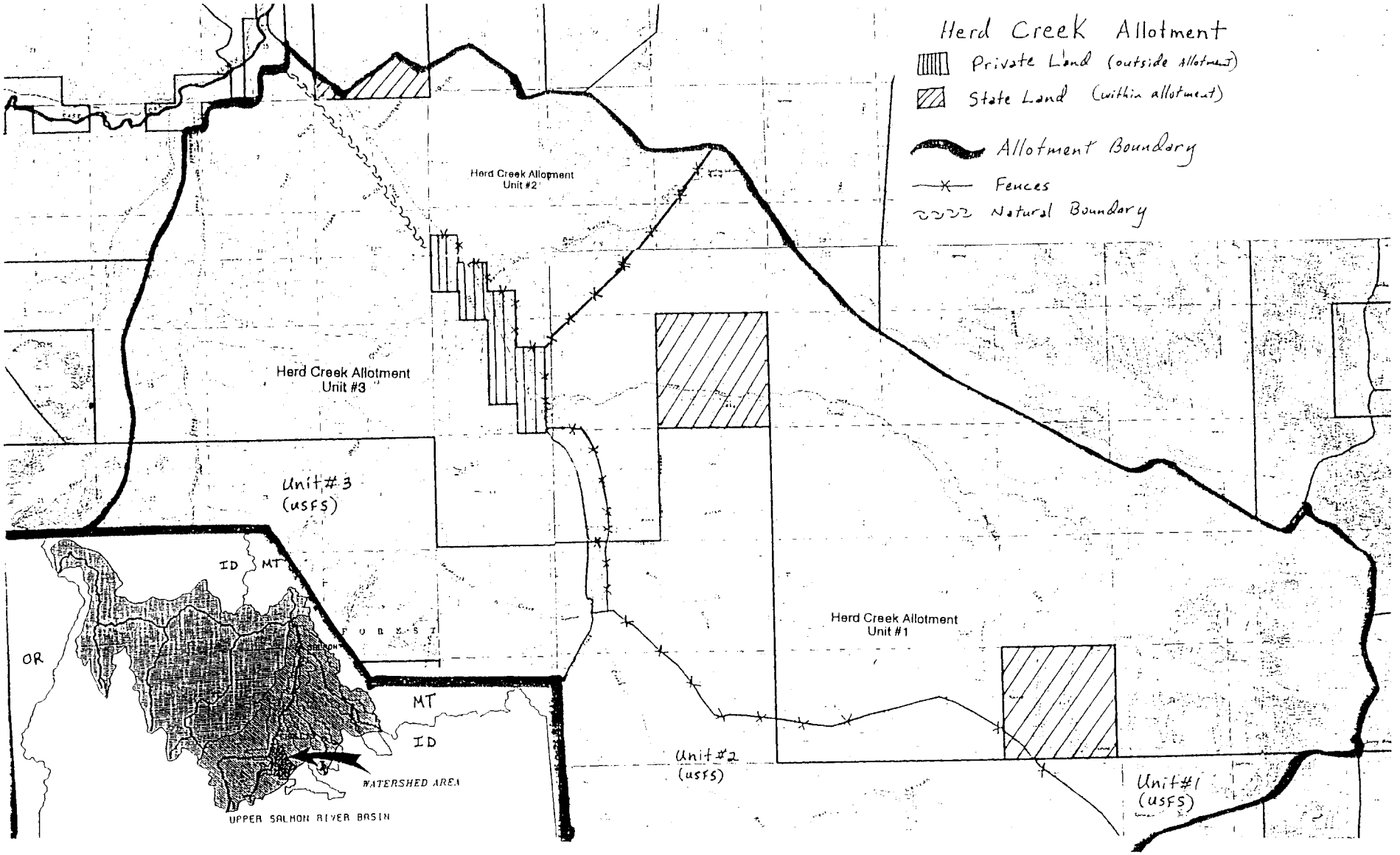
Herd Creek Allotment
Private Land (outside allotment)
State Land (within allotment)
Allotment Boundary
Fences
Natural Boundary
Herd Creek Allotment Unit #2
Herd Creek Allotment Unit #3
Unit #3 (USFS)
Herd Creek Allotment Unit #1
Unit #2 (USFS)
Unit #1 (USFS)
ID
MT
OR
MT
ID
WATERSHED AREA
UPPER SALMON RIVER BASIN